

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 170831Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1148

AMEMB TOKYO JAPAN

INFO OAC FORT BUCKNER OKINAWA

COMUSJ FUCHU JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 291

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MARR, JA

SUBJ: SOCIALIST VIEWS COMMUNISTS, BASE LABOR PROBLEMS, NAHA PORT

SUMMARY: JSP DIETMAN UEHARA EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH GROWING STRENGTH OF JCP, URGED ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF REDUCTIONS IN CONTRACT WORK FORCE AND SAID JSP WOULD OPPOSE PLANS FOR GOJ TO BUILD REPLACEMENT FOR NAHA MILITARY PORT. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A COURTESY CALL ON THE JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP) OKINAWA HEADQUARTERS, JSP LOWER HOUSE DIETMAN KOSUKE UEHARA DEPARTED FROM THE ALMOST UNIVERSAL LOCAL PRACTICE OF REHEARSING THE LITANY OF BASE RELATED PROBLEMS AND INSTEAD DIGRESSED AT LENGTH ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE JSP, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO

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THE JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY (JCP). UEHARA COMPARED THE DISCIPLINE AND ENERGY OF THE JCP WITH THE FACTIONALISM AND TIRED BLOOD OF THE JSP (HE NOTED THAT EVEN THE LDP IS YOUNGER ON AVERAGE THAN THE JSP OF WHOSE DIET MEMBERS ONLY SEVEN WERE BORN IN THE SHOWA ERA). UEHARA EXPRESSED ENVY OF THE JCP'S WELL FINANCED CAMPAIGNS IN WHICH THEY DISPLAYED GREAT SKILL IN USING MODERN TECHNIQUE TO CONVEY AN IMAGE OF FRESHNESS AIDED BY THE FACT THAT THEIR CANDIDATES WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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USUALLY YOUNG AND VERY WELL DRESSED. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN

THAT THE JJCP WOULD ENJOY INCREASING SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING SUPPORT FROM THE JSP'S TRADITIONAL LABOR BASE AND SAID THAT THE JSP WAS HAVING GREAT TROUBLE IN COMING UP WITH NEW ISSUES NOW THAT ALL OF THE PARTIES WERE FOCUSING ON DOMESTIC PROBLEMS SUCH AS POLLUTION AND INFLATION. UEHARA'S MOOD WAS PERHAPS BEST DISPLAYED WITH HIS RHETORICAL QUESTION QTE IF IT CANNOT WIN IN TOKYO WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE JSP UNQTE.

2. ON BASE ISSUES, UEHARA SIGNLED OUT FOR STRESS ONLY THE RECENT TERMINATION OF THE USMC'S MESS HALL CONTRACT, URGING THE NECES-SITY OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO THE WORKERS INVOLVED. HE RETURNED TO THIS THEME SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DISCUSSION AND SAID THE USG SHOULD PAY SEPARATION ALLOWANCES TO THE MESS HALL WORKERS IN VIEW

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OF THE LACK OF ADVANCE NOTICE.

3. UEHARA ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE GOJ MIGHT BUILD A NEW PORT TO REPLACE THE NAHA MILITARY PORT. CONGEN SAID THAT THE BASIC IDEA WAS NOT A NEW ONE AND THAT IT MIGHT WORK OUT TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH THE U.S. FORCES AND NAHA CITY. IN ACCORD WITH STANDARD JSP LINE ON "ENTRENCHMENT OF BASE STRUCTURE," UEHARA SAID THAT HIS PARTY WOULD OPPOSE SUCH A PLAN SINCE IT WOULD ONLY REPLACE ONE BASE WITH ANOTHER, BUT THAT HE COULD UNDERSTAND HOW IT MIGHT BENEFIT NAHA CITY DEVELOPMENT.

4. COMMENT. UEHARA IS OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE GROWTH OF JCP STRENGTH AND THE INABILITY OF THE JSP TO RESPOND TO THIS GROWTH. UEHARA'S PREOCCUPATION WITH THESE PROBLEMS PROBABLY REFLECTS IN PART THE GROWING DIFFICULTY HE IS ENCOUNTER-ING IN HOLDING TOGETHER HIS OKINAWAN LABOR BASE INTO WHICH THE OKINAWAN PEOPLES PARTY (WHICH WILL FORMALLY ENTER THE JCP THIS FALL) IS REPORTEDLY MAKING INCREASING INROADS.

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